Fam. 92

Now or Never: 3

OR, A

PROJECT

UNDER GOD,

To Secure the CHURCH [and MONARCHY] of *England.*

IN A

Congratulatory Letter

To the Right Honourable

Lord D----,

Upon his late PROMOTION:

Anſwer'd Paragraph by Paragraph.

By a well-meaning Tory, who is willing to clear the Church of *England* from *Jacobitiſm.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

INTRODUCTION.

THo' this Method of Anſwering Things Paragraph by Paragraph, has in ſome Caſes been look'd upon as a Deſign only to Publiſh ſcandalous and ſeditious Pamphlets to the World, it is ſo in ſuch only where the Anſwers are pretended; as, *The Memorial of the Church of* England, *&c.* But, when the Anſwer is Real, and done with a Deſign to expoſe the Villanies of the Seditions, its certainly the plaineſt and eaſieſt way for the Reader to judge on which ſide the Truth is; and as all ſeditious Things, tho' never ſo Dull, are induſtriouſly ſpread abroad, the Publiſhing them with a Fair Anſwer (which I have endeavour'd to do) can't poſſibly do any hurt to the Publick, the following Piece well deſerves the Characters of the moſt Impudent, Dull, Senſeleſs, (but for it's Sillineſs) the moſt miſchievous Piece Extant; but as all things that ſteal into the World are moſt ſought for, and may catch the Unwary, I thought it might be neceſſary to Publiſh and Expoſe this.

MY LORD,

1ſt. WHEN I reflect on the Promotion of your Lordſhip to that Poſt of Honour; I find a ſenſible Satisfaction in my ſelf; it being a happy *Præludium* to a further Change in the Miniſtry. That ſuch Men of Honour are admitted to Her Majeſty's Favour and Councils, fills not only me, but all honeſt Men, with Exſtaſies of Joy: And I hope the time is come, that our moſt Excellent Church is once more riſing, and will become the *Joy of all the Corners of the Land.* The poor Church of *England* has been in a Storm for ſome Years: But, God be thank'd, ſhe rode it out by means of *Anchora ſpei.* The Cloud breaks, the Sun ſhines; and we hope there is reaſon that all Fears and Jealouſies ſhould be baniſh'd for ever. *Poſt nubila Phœbus.*

1ſt. *The firſt Paragraph is chiefly a Complement to my L—— D. on his Promotion, and all the World will pay the ſame to a Gentleman of his Character, as well as to the Reſt of thoſe worthy Gentlemen lately Promoted; but for the mighty Danger the Church has been in, and the great Hopes our Author ſeems to have of it flouriſhing again. I pray he may be diſappointed in them, if he means (as I think it's plain he does) the Church of* Rome, *for certainly the Reformed Church of* England *has not been in any Danger of late Years, except as Dr.* Sacheverell *ſays, from* Atheiſm, *&c. which we have as much to fear from now as ever. Let all true* Engliſh-*men remember, that* Leſley *and his Gang mean the* Roman Catholick *Church, when they ſpeak of the Church of* England, *and not the Reform'd Proteſtant Church, as by Law Eſtabliſh'd; they look upon us all as Fanaticks and Diſſenters.*

2d.

2*d*. The late Celebrated Tryal of a Reverend and Learned Divine of the Church of *England*, has, God be thanked, opened the Eyes of the Nation, who had for ſome Years been hoodwinkt by the falſe and intriguing Deſigns of *Antimonarchical*, *Enthuſiaſtical* and *Atheiſtical* Setts of Men. VVhat was their Aim, is as plain, as if wrote with a Sun-beam. Worldly Intereſt, and this World's Grandeur is their *Summum Bonum*. They never look beyond the Grave—— They have been Battering the *Church* and *Monarchy* on all ſides; but, God be thanked, their Attacks have been fruitleſs: for the *Church* is founded upon a Rock; and the Intereſts of both *Church* and *Monarchy* are ſo twiſted, that, like *Hippocrates*'s Twins, they live and die together. This is apparent from the Grand Rebellion of *Forty One*, when *Both*, for our Sins, were laid in the Duſt; but, *Phenix*-like, they aroſe by the Providence of God, from their own Aſhes: and, we truſt in God, by the Aſſiſtance of the ſame good Providence, they will continue till time ſhall be no more.

2d. *The 2d. Paragraph is as full of Trifling as any of the Reſt, as for the learning of the Divine he ſpeaks of, it's Poſſible the World may be made acquainted with it by ſome elaborate Piece of his, which he may publiſh when he can finiſh it; and as he has open'd ſome Peoples Eyes to ſee ſuch things as they cou'd not Diſcern before, ſo has he likewiſe of a great many who can now ſee the P———rs Friends, Herding themſelves with the Church of* England-*men, and bauling for* Jure Divino, *&c. God forbid but the* Church *and* Monarchy *ſhou'd be Eſtabliſh'd and Preſerv'd from the villanous Doctrines of the Gun-Powder Treaſon Plotters, as well as thoſe of* Forty One, *but theſe Pious Well-wiſhers to our* Church *and* Monarchy, *never think it worth while*

to explode Papiſts *and* Jacobites. *We are pretty well ſatisfied how far all Mankind Aims at Grandeur and Riches, ſo much for that.*

3*d.* In order to ſo good an End, it will be uſeful to apply ſome neceſſary Natural Means to ſupport *Both*: And the beſt Expedient that I know of, is to ſuppreſs all Rebellious and Scandalous Pamphleteers; ſuch as the *Reviews*, *Obſervators*, *Flying-Poſt*, with the reſt of the profligate Gang of Scriblers. 'Tis a good Obſervation of the Great *Clarendon*, that the Pamphlets of thoſe times were the Forerunners of the Troubles of *Forty One*. The Pulpits and the Preſs were the Trumpeters of that Horrid Rebellion: And what has been may be; and 'tis time to *ſcatter them that delight in War*; 'tis high time to regulate the Preſs, and to ſtop the Mouths of thoſe that Talk and Write againſt our *Sion*. The time is come that we muſt repair our Breaches, and build up the Walls of our *Jeruſalem*. The Scales are taken off from the Eyes of a poor deluded People; and they now ſee their Danger; they were juſt at the *Præcipice* of Ruin, and God did deliver, and we hope, will always deliver them from the Jaws of Death. The Enemies of God, the Church, the Queen and Monarchy are at laſt confounded, and they are caught in their own Net, and the Pit which they digged for others, they are fallen into. Thanks be to God. Their Deſigns were cloſe laid; their Projects ſecurely calculated, and their Plots cunningly concerted: And when, upon the point of Execution, as ſoon blaſted by the merciful Power of God. Pſ. 124. 5, 6, 7. *Praiſed be the Lord, which hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth: Our ſoul is eſcaped, even as a bird out of the ſnare of the Fowler; the ſnare is broken, and we are delivered. Our help*

ſtandeth

ſtandeth in the name of the Lord which hath made hea ven and earth.

3d. *Our Author to ſhew his reſpect to the Church and Monarchy, and to preſerve them, has found out a rare expedient as you ſee above; which is, ſuppreſſing the* Review, Obſervator, *and* Flying-Poſt, *with the Reſt of the Scriblers; that is, thoſe Scriblers only that write againſt the Pretender, which is plain from the Word* SUCH. The Moderator, *and* The Good Old Cauſe, *he can ſee no harm in. The Obſervation of my Lord* Clarendon *was certainly very Juſt, and the Pulpit, and the Preſs may be as Dangerous now as ever; I think we have been pretty much Ruffled of late by both, and were to be wiſh'd by all true Lovers of their Country, that the Pulpits ſhou'd ſound forth nothing but Chriſtian Doctrines, and leave Politicks to States-men, and that Scriblers of all Sides were Suppreſs'd, by that means we might in Time forget our preſent Hart-burnings, which are now induſtriouſly refreſh'd by Pul-pit and Preſs.*

4*th.* And when this Sett of never-failing Plotters are at work again, let us put up our Petitions to the ſame good God, who has preſerved us, in the Words of the ſame Royal Prophet; *Keep us from the ſnares which they have laid for us, and from the trapps of wicked doers.* Pſ. 141. 10, 11. *Let the ungodly,* (tho' they ſtile themſelves the Elect, and Saints of this World) *fall into their own nets together, and let* us *ever eſcape them.*

4th. *I ſhall only Anſwer to this, may all Plotters and Diſturbers of the publick Peace, whether Papiſt, or Proteſtant, fall into the Pits they Dig for others, and may Hipocrites of all ſorts be expos'd and de-ſpis'd.*

5 *th.* 2*dly*, Another Expedient to ſecure our Church and Conſtitution from theſe Invaders of Liberty and Property, is to diſarm thoſe Men, and to fill their Places with Men of ſtaunch and ſound Principles. Not that I would be thought to dictate to my Superiours; but with humble Submiſſion, I preſume to offer up my Mite of Advice. *Solomon* tells us of a poor Man that ſaved a City. To prevent Miſchief to Church and State, 'tis highly neceſſary to change the Officers of the Navy, Army, Garriſons, and the Lieutenancy, and to put them into ſafer Hands; and let ſuch as have orthodox principles, be the Men that ſhall Rule over us. But, my Lord, I dare not go on, leſt it ſhould be conſtrued *Preſumption*; but ſhall leave that Province to be managed by ſuch as your Lordſhip is; and we hope in due time to reap the Fruit of your Labours. Go on, Sir, in the Name of God, and proſper.

5th. *This Paragraph is an extraordinary Pattern of* Jacobite *Modeſty and Moderation, he wou'd not be thought to adviſe his Superiors at the ſame time, that he moſt Impudently tells 'em its neceſſary to Change the Officers of the Navy, Army, Garriſons, and Lieutenancy, and that this is the Way to preſerve the Church and Conſtitution, that is the* Romiſh *Church, and* Leſleys *Conſtition; ſhall all the brave Heroes in our Army ſuffer from the Scoundrel Pen of a poor* Jacobite *Varlet? ſhall he call all the noble Patriots of our Conſtitution both in the Army, and in the Miniſtry, Invaders of Liberty and Property, Men that every Day venture their Lives for the Liberties of* Europe? *ſhall they be mark'd as Men that ought to be laid aſide as Enemies to the Government? and all this with Impunity; I hope not, if the Author can be diſcover'd, after he has ſaid more than ever his great Maſter* Leſley *dar'd to ſay, he's*

afraid

afraid to go on leaſt it ſhould ſeem Preſumption. Truly a very modeſt Fellow, and may in Time reap his Deſerts.

6*th.* 3*dly*, Another Expedient to ſecure the Members of our Church, is to have a new Houſe of Commons. But I dare not dictate: But Charity to my Fellow-Members of the ſame Church, forces me (though in danger) to be their Advocate. The whole Nation rings of the Loyal Addreſſes; and there are ſo many Bold and Brave Strokes in many of them, that Ruin all Rebellious Tenets; that the *Promoters* of thoſe Addreſſes (in my ſingle Opinion) are not, cannot be ſafe, if this *H*— of *C*——*s* be ſuffered to ſit again. They were before for Roaſting the Honeſt Clergy; and now they will be as forward to puniſh the Honeſt Laity, which I hope will be prevented.

7*th.* 4*thly*, Another Expedient to ſecure our Church and State, is, upon the Suppoſition of a New H—— of C———s to review the Act of Toleration, as 'tis Vulgarly called, or elſe to bring another Bill againſt the infamous Practice of Occaſional Conformity: Both a Review of the former Act; and another new one, is of abſolute Neceſſity for the ſafety of the Church and State. Not that I am for the total Aboliſhing of the Act of Exemption for Conſciences truly Scrupulous, and tender: But I am abſolutely againſt Knaves making Advantages of it, and protecting themſelves under the branches of it. For how odd does it look, that Men of no Conſcience ſhould plead Conſcience; and that Men of no Religion ſhould take Sanctuary under that Act, that was never deſigned for them. In that Act there is no Exemption of Atheiſts, Deiſts, Socinians, and Diſſenters, that have no ſcrupulous and tender Conſciences. All theſe Men, upon occaſion, can run to the Altar

Altar for a Place or Promotion; and yet, like a Dog to his Vomit, or a Sow that walloweth in the Mire, can return to their Meetings and Cit-cat-Clubs. Theſe Men play with Sacraments, and dally with Damnation; which I think with ſubmiſſion, the Government ought to prevent; and that may be done by bringing in a new Bill againſt Occaſional Conformity, which is a Sin of Antiquity, and ought to be laid aſide. The firſt Occaſional Conformiſt was Satan, as we read in the firſt of *Job*: The next that we meet with was *Judas*, and ſince the Revolution their Number is vaſtly increaſed; and 'tis high time to put a ſtop to that growing Miſchief, a prevention of which muſt be left to our Wiſe Legiſlators.

6th, 7th. *More Modeſty! but he would not be thought to adviſe his Superiors here neither I ſuppoſe, but very impudently lays his Expedients before them, that to ſecure the Members of his Church* (viz.) *of* Rome. *I think it's plain he means, there muſt be a new Houſe of C——s; The Act of* Toleration *muſt be taken away, Perſecution muſt be Promoted, Cutting of Throats, and ruining our Diſſenting Brethren are very uſeful things to Eſtabliſh the Church and Monarchy, O Brave Barefac'd Jacobite.*

8th. 5thly, Another Expedient to ſecure our Church eſpecially, and conſequently the Monarchy, is for our Wiſe Councellors to adviſe her Majeſty to fill the Biſhopricks, and other Dignities belonging to the Crown, with Stanch, Sound, and Orthodox Clergy. By this time we may ſee (for our Eyes are open, Thanks to a Reverend Doctor for his Courage, and Bravery in ſtemming a Tide, that was ready to overturn both Church and Monarchy; let his Memory be precious to all Ages) what falſe Steps for ſome Years have been made, by promoting Men of ill

ill Principles in the ſeveral Stations of the Church; that Seven B——s ſhould be againſt the Church is ſtrange, and will ſeem more ſo in future Ages: But 'tis hop'd that they, and ſuch as they, will come to their Senſes, and ſee their Faults, before it be too late, and ſtand by the Church, their Mother. God ſend —— There's a Secret; that the World will know in a little time; 'tis a Charm or ſomewhat worſe; That Men ſhould be ſtanch Doctors, and ill B——s; No Near, ſays the Mariner, leſt we run the Veſſel on Shelves and Quick-ſands; for the Time won't bear that Church-Men ſhould ſpeak plain Senſe; tho' *Reviews* and *Obſervators* may, [*See Rev.* Tueſ. July 18.] and that without Puniſhment. But, my Lord, I hope their Reign is not long, conſidering your Lordſhip's Poſt. Give me leave, my Lord, to quote one Paſſage of the Pilloried Scribler. 'But after all, 'their Eyes will be open'd, and I may freely tell you, 'all the Peoples Eyes do already begin to be open'd, 'they begin to ſee Jacobitiſm riding upon them a 'Gallop, beſtriding the Beaſt call'd *Non-Reſiſtance*; 'and the Pretender coming to invade us, before the 'Wind blown apace to our Shoar by a ſtrong Gale of 'Northern Wind, called *Hereditary Right*.---Depend 'upon it, the Nation begins to ſee---Here your Lordſhip may ſee Impudence in the Abſtract, and riding in Triumph. What bold Names he calls the Doctrine of our Bleſſed Lord, *the Beaſt*, and how baſely he flurts at Hereditary Right——This Inſolence ought to be corrected. And then he ſays, Depend on't, the Nation begins to ſee. Yes Mr. *Deſoe*, 'tis true indeed, the Nation begins to ſee; [*An Addreſs to* Deſoe.] but 'twas the Doctor that Coucht the People, or took off the Scales from the Eyes of a deluded People, who now ſee your Cheats, Lyes, Calumnies; and believe me they are not, they will not be cheated by ſuch Monſters of Men, again. [*See the ſame Review.*]

view.] The Ball is their own; and they'l keep it; and they have no occaſion for your true Proteſtant Spectacles. Would to God, you would uſe them, and you may ſee your own Villanies and Rogueries with a long, *&c.* And now I ſhall leave ſuch Inſects to be ſqueezed by Authority; I would not have him puniſhed Allegorically (a Word he is mightily pleaſed with) but in *propria Perſona*, as he juſtly deſerves.

8th. *Now for a New Set of Biſhops to ſecure our Monarchy; nay, and they muſt be Wiſe and Orthodox ones too, ſuch as* Leſley, Hicks, Collier, *and ſeveral other Lovers of the Monarchy that will not give it the ordinary Tokens of Affection* (viz.) *to take the Oaths to it: Truly, a very worthy Sheme, I hope you won't forget the Learneed Doctor in your Promotions; you'r a very modeſt Fellow truly, to call moſt of our B—s, Men of ill Principles, becauſe they were againſt the Diſturbers of the Publick Peace, and againſt the Deſigns of Papiſts and Jacobites, they are very ill Men; and truly ſo they are for your Cauſe, they are not good Perkenites: We are to have a great Secret Diſcover'd in a little time, but it muſt be by a Perſon of greater Sagacity than our Anthor, for tho' he ſeems to be a great Maſter of Impudence, I'm afraid he's dim-ſighted in Secrets.*

9th. *6thly*, Another Expedient to ſecure the Church and State, is to teſt our Deſſenting Brethren; and ſince they can ſwallow the Sacramental Teſt, it would be worth the while to prove them with another; and indeed it is only to turn the Tables upon them: For had their deſigns in the laſt Houſe of Commons gone on glibly, all Church-men ſhould have been obliged to deny, ahhor, abjure the Doctrines of Paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance; but they have loſt the Day. Let us try their Courage; and

and as we ſay, what is Sawce for the Gooſe, is Sawce for the Gander; and ſince they were ſo free with their Teſts, 'tis very agreeable to Reaſon, and Senſe, that they ſhould have one; which may be, that all ſorts of Perſons in Government ſhould have been obliged upon pain of ----- to Subſcribe to the Doctrine of Reſiſting Princes, as a Damnable, and Popiſh Tenet, contrary to the Law of the Land, and Law of God; and that all Diſſenting Preachers, Teachers, and all Quakers ſhould be obliged upon a Penalty of ----- to obſerve, the 5th of *November* and the 30th of *January* Annually, and on each of thoſe Days, according to the Cuſtom of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, to Read a Homily againſt Rebellion, ----- and that every Meeting-Houſe not open on thoſe Days, ſhall be ſhut up for ever after, and the Teacher and Preacher, made incapable of any Benefit from the Act of Exemption. This is the Project of the Excellent Author of the Moderator, [*See* Moderator 17.] and with him I fully agree. This would Nail down the Doctrine of Reſiſtance for ever, and ſink it into the bottomleſs Pit, from whence it came; this alone would ſecure the Church, and Doctrines from the Rage and Fury of thoſe Peſtilent Vermin, that are always for Root and Branch-work of the Church and Monarchy.

10*th*. I ſhall not, my Lord, at preſent add any more Expedients; but ſhall only obſerve to your Lordſhip, that the Diſſenters from our Eſtabliſhed Church have far greater, and more Eminent Privileges, than any Diſſenters from any Church in the whole World. I ſhall take a ſhort Surview, and then put an End to your Lordſhip's trouble.

11*th*. Let me firſt caſt my Eye upon the Reform'd of *France*; they are ſo far from having Places and Poſts

Posts in the Government, as our Dissenters at present have, that they are not allowed to worship God according to their own Way. The Gallies, Prisons, and several sorts of Punishments are their cruel Lot and Portion; and were our Dissenters thus managed, they would have reason to cry out. But the Government has excepted them from certain Penalties of former Acts; yet this cannot excuse that heinous Sin of Schism. Let them look to that——

12*th.* 2*dly*, Let us look on the Wise, and Charitable States of *Holland*, [*See the* Dutch *Way of Toleration, Printed*, 1699.] who are so free in giving Advice to Crowned Heads. Tho' they give Toleration to all Sects, and Factions, yet they are so politick, as to admit none into Places of Honour and Profit, but those of *Calvin*'s Platform; That Wise Commonwealth ought to be to us a President; and I think we should do well, as to Copy from them. But this I must leave to our Superiors.

The Churches of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, give no manner of Toleration to Dissenters; Nay, the *Lutheran* Churches of *Denmark* and *Sweden* are as stiff in this point, as they: Nay, more than that, the Presbyterians of *North-Britain* are over cruel to the Episcopal Clergy and Laity; *But*, *Lord*, *how long*——

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th. *Here again for Dissenting Brethren as to be Tested, Sawc'd, Souc'd, Pickl'd, Roasted, and what not: It's plain the Dissenters need no Tests to make them good Subjects to the Present Government, because they are always ready with their Lives and Fortunes to assist and defend it against all Invaders, even against such Excellent Projectors as you and the Moderator, who it's to be fear'd are inveterate Enemies to it. Its a Happiness we have an end of your Expedients, and*

as for the Liberty the Diſſenters enjoy with us, I think it as plainly ſhews the Goodneſs and Excellency of our Conſtitution, as your mentioning France *for your firſt Example of Perſecution, does what you are, and what you are for; and the indeed Wiſe States of* Holland *do ſuffer all Religions freely and openly, and Men of all Religions have Poſts in their Armies, and they are a very great People, and flouriſh, when thoſe that Perſecute for Religion do grow poor and weak. Their Countries are depopulated, and become Deſerts: Look into all thoſe Countries you have mention'd; Conſider their Bulk, and then Compare them with* England *and* Holland, *and your wooden Shoe Principles are anſwer'd.*

13*th.* Thus have I preſumed to lay before your Lordſhip my Thoughts of ſecuring the Church and Monarchy of our Nation. I have only given hints, which I hope ſome abler Pen will expatiate on. I ſhall end all with my Prayers to God to defend and protect our moſt pure Church, the Church of *England*, to bleſs her Majeſty with Wiſe, Learned, and Pious Councellors, ſuch as your Lordſhip is; and that God would Counſel her Councellors, and teach her Senators Wiſdom; and ſo end all with the Words of the County of *Gloceſters* Addreſs. [*See the Addreſs.*] *Long may Her Majeſty Live and Reign over us, as a Nurſing Mother of our Spotleſs Religion, the Delight and Darling of a Happy People, and the Horror and Scourge of Ambitious Tyrants. May Her Majeſty late, very late, Exchange theſe Temporal Crowns for an Immortal one, and our diſtant Poſterity enjoy the Benefits, and Bleſs the Memory of Her Majeſty's Piety and Conduct.*

13th. *There is more Truth in this laſt Paragraph than in any of the Former; for you have preſum'd to lay your Thoughts before his Lordſhip, and that moſt impudently,*

tho'

tho' ignorantly enough to shew that you are a vile Tool to Lesly *and* Perkin, *and wou'd have all the Officers in our Armies,* &c. *displac'd, to make Room not for such Men as my* L—— D——; *but for such as might serve your Villanous Ends, but I hope God will bless Her Majesty with such Wise, Learned and Pious Councellors as will always see thro', and frustrate the Designs of such villainous Advisers as you are.*

FINIS.

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